



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025

BCGREA Branch #700 — Kootenays–Nelson



Meet Your New Executive



Welcoming Our Co-Chairs: Al Pollard & Ken Haynes



Heartfelt thanks to **Alex Wallach** for over a decade of dedicated leadership—your good humor and steady hand made a lasting impact.



Get to Know Our Co-Chairs



Al Pollard

Al, originally from Ontario, moved west in the late '70s and found his new home in Golden, BC—where he met Laurie. Their family journey brought them to Nelson (Laurie's hometown) with kids, a dog, and a cat in tow. Al spent 15 years at the Forest Service at 4 Mile. Post-retirement, he pursued Culinary Arts at Selkirk College and now enjoys traveling, volunteering, and spending cherished time with grandkids in Kelowna.



Ken Haynes

Graduating from LVR in 1972 and BCIT in 1977, Ken began his government service in Smithers with the Forest Service. In 1991 to 1994 Ken worked for Highways in 100 Mile House. He had his entire career in government – believing always it was the best career anywhere for him. Retiring in 2017, Ken remains active curling, playing pickleball, walking, kayaking, and exploring trails on his ATV. He and his wife Sandi, married since 1981, have three adult children. Ken is excited to support and inform our community.



Behind the Scenes: Your Working Group

This team supports the executive in organizing events and managing branch operations:

Don MacKinnon, Barb Wallace, Gerrie Melnechuk, Janet Leahy, Louise Swendson, Alex Wallach, Art O'Bryan, Denise Moreau, Elaine Parker, Nancy McComb, Yvonne Shewfelt




Got an idea or suggestion? Reach out!  [Branch 700 Webpage](#)

Save the Date: Spring Luncheon!

 **Wednesday, May 7th**

 *Prestige Lakeside Resort, BRIXX Brewhouse — 701 Lakeside Dr., Nelson*


 Guest Speaker: *Andrea Molitor (Junior Achievers BC)*

 AGM Update by Al & Ken

 *Watch your inbox for more details next week!*






Show Your BCGREA Pride

Check out great logo merchandise online or at the Spring Luncheon!

 To subscribe to merchandise email blasts and updates check your Profile preferences on the website at <https://bcgre.ca>. For merchandise orders contact: **Gerrie Melnechuk** at gerdale@telus.net

New Feature Item: Feather Flight Non-Woven Zipper Tote Bag + Stylus Pen in Royal Blue



-  \$10.00 each (while supplies last)
 -  Size: 19" x 14.5" x 3"
 -  Extra-large, zippered tote with dual 26" handles
 -  2 mesh exterior pockets
 -  Recyclable & reusable
-


Our 2024 Charity Contribution

Nelson & District Hospice Society — \$133.00 Donated

 Thank you all for your generosity!




BCGREA Provincial AGM


 **April 30th, 2025 – Tsawwassen**

 Members may observe via Zoom - details will be emailed closer to the date


 Voting Delegates: **Al Pollard & Ken Haynes**

55+ BC Senior Games — Nanaimo Bound!

 **September 9–13, 2025 – Nanaimo**

 Registration opened April 1st! Each sport has its own rules—some require pre-qualifying at the zone level. People interested should check out the link to learn how to qualify in your zone.

 Nelson belongs to **Zone 6** — [Learn More Here](#)

 Interested in joining a **BCGREA Meet & Greet** while participating in the Games in Nanaimo? Contact: **Larry Martin (Branch 700, Penticton)**

 Be sure to wear your **BCGREA Logo Gear** to stay visible and connected!

 **Wishing you a joyful and vibrant spring season!** Stay connected. Stay active. Stay inspired.